to SARS resulting in drop in traffic and pilots non-cooperation during April/May, 2003; (ii) Increase in prices of aviation turbine fuel; and (iii) Overall recessionary trend in the International market.

Specialized Wing for Airport Security

888. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for tightening the security measures at airports;

(b) whether a dedicated wing of CISF will be given specialized training for the security of airports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Security measures are in place at all airports in the country in accordance with the guidelines issued by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Based on threat perception, security measures are further strengthened which *inter-alia* include cent percent physical check of registered baggage, increased surveillance at the airport, deployment of Sky Marshals, Quick Response Teams, secondary ladder point frisking, increased perimeter patrolling, restricting entry of visitors in some areas of airport, etc.

(b) and (c) CISF deployed at airports are already given specialised pre-induction training on aviation security. Subsequently, they are given on the job training for one month by the State Police before aviation security duties are handed over to them. A two-week's training on aviation security at CISF National Institute of Security Academy at Hyderabad is also given to them. BCAS and IB also conduct training for CISF personnel.

Study on low cost air services

889. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed to carry out a feasibility study of low-cost airline from Cochin to some key destinations in the Gulf viz. Dubai, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi has since given its report;

(b) if so, what are its recommendations; and

(c) what decisions have been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) No Committee has been appointed to carry out feasibility study of a low cost airline. However, a Committee has been constituted to study the modalities of low cost operations from Kerala to Gulf under the aegis of Air India Charters Ltd. This Committee has yet to finalise its report. Final decision will be taken after ascertaining the financial and economic viability of the project.

Additional flights to Jammu and Kashmir

890. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the frequency of flights to Jammu and Kashmir due to heavy rush of tourists in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when additional flights are likely to resume?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has no plans to increase the services to/from Jammu & Kashmir, at present. Indian Airlines, however, operates additional flights to Jammu & Kashmir depending on the passenger demand from time to time. Such flights were operated to Leh during Sindhu Darshan festival in June 2003 and to Srinagar for Amarnath Yatra in July 2003.

Compensation for land acquired for Airport projects

†891. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether private land has been acquired by Government for expansion of airports in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether land of some farmers has been acquired by Government for expansion of airport situated in Dehradun; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.